

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of diagnosing a human individual's predisposition to an atopic immunological disorder, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of at least one TIM-1 polymorphism by contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of a TIM-1 gene;

wherein the presence of said polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopic immunological disorder.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises:

contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to one or more of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a fragment thereof; and

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said nucleic acid.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said biological sample comprises nucleic acids specifically amplified with sequences set forth in one or more of SEQ ID NO:18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a fragment thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to the nucleic acid sequence ATGACAAACGACTGTTCCA, SEQ ID NO:22, BASES 472-489, encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163; and

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said nucleic acid.

5 - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological sample is blood or a derivative thereof.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of: analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity

wherein said seropositivity in said individual expressing an allele of TIM-1 comprising the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163 is indicative of a reduced risk of developing atopy.

9 – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of diagnosing a human individual's predisposition to an atopic immunological disorder, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of at least one TIM-1 polymorphism by contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163;

wherein the presence of said polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopic immunological disorder.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said biological sample is blood or a derivative thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity,
wherein seropositivity in an individual expressing an allele of TIM-1 comprising the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163 is indicative of a reduced risk of developing atopy.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of diagnosing a human individual's predisposition to an atopic immunological disorder, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of at least one TIM-1 polymorphism by contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds under stringent conditions to a polymorphism in exon 3 of a TIM-1 gene;

wherein the presence of said polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopic immunological disorder.